

I claim:

Sub A7

1. A method for displaying player account information on a display of a gaming device connected by a network to a host computer comprising:

5 creating a player account accessible by the host computer;  
generating game display information to create an original image;  
accessing at the gaming device the player account from the host computer;  
generating player account display information to create an overlay image;  
combining the original image with the overlay image to create a combined image; and  
10 displaying the combined image on the display of the gaming device.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of combining the original image with the overlay image includes the step of overlaying the overlay image on top of the original image.

15 3. The method of claim 2, further including:  
dividing the display into a plurality of display fields including at least a game display field and a player tracking display field; and  
displaying the original image within the game display field and the overlay image  
20 within the player tracking display field.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the player account display information includes a player name.

25 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the player account display information includes a player ID.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the player account display information includes a player point total.

30 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the player account display information includes a session point total.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the player account display information includes a personal progressive.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the player account display information includes an extra credit.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the player account display information includes a loyalty bonus.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein the player account display information includes a loyalty award.

12. An apparatus for displaying additional information on a gaming machine display comprising:

a host computer including a database of player tracking information;  
a gaming machine coupled to said host computer over a network, said gaming machine including a gaming machine display and gaming electronics for generating and projecting a game image onto the gaming machine display; and  
communication means for bi-directional communication between the host computer and the gaming machine, said communication means including supplemental commands operative with said gaming electronics to combine said game image with a player tracking image generated from said player tracking information communicated from said host computer to said gaming machine.

13. An apparatus for displaying information on a display of one of a plurality of gaming machines coupled over a network to a host computer comprising:

a card reader operable with a casino-issued player tracking card to identify a user of the gaming machine;

a machine communication interface coupled to receive player tracking data from a host computer responsive to a user identified from the card reader;

a game video display;

gaming electronics programmed to operate and display a game image on the game video display; and

a video overlay device interposed between said gaming electronics and said game video display to overlay the player tracking data received from the host computer on top of the game image received from the gaming electronics.

5           14.     The method of claim 13, wherein the player tracking data includes a player name.

          15.     The method of claim 13, wherein the player tracking data includes a player ID.

10           16.     The method of claim 13, wherein the player tracking data includes a player point total.

          17.     The method of claim 13, wherein the player tracking data includes a session point total.

15           18.     The method of claim 13, wherein the player tracking data includes a personal progressive.

20           19.     The method of claim 13, wherein the player tracking data includes an extra credit.

          20.     The method of claim 13, wherein the player tracking data includes a loyalty bonus.

25           21.     The method of claim 13, wherein the player tracking data includes a loyalty award.